

20240808 Potential Suspect Entering Crime Scene - Unidentified - Unquestioned

Complaint 1: Failure to Comply with Procedure 701.03D (securing the crime scene area from unauthorized intrusions to protect any physical evidence)

.03 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

- A. The scene of any crime is physical evidence in itself. However, the best physical evidence is normally found at or near the site of the most critical action taken by the criminal against the property or victim.
- B. In order for physical evidence to be effectively used by the Investigator and the prosecutor, its presence must be recognized by the officers at or near the crime scene.
- C. Physical evidence must be properly preserved, recorded, and collected for it to be of use in discovering the facts of a crime.
- D. The first officer to arrive at the scene of a crime automatically assumes the responsibility of securing the crime scene area from unauthorized intrusions to protect any physical evidence.

.04 DIMENSIONS OF A CRIME SCENE

- A. No set of definite rules can be applied to defining the dimensions of the scene of a crime.
- B. While it is entirely possible the dimensions of a crime scene will be large, there are usually priority areas readily apparent to the trained officer/UEDI or Crime Scene Unit Investigator which should be given immediate protection.

.05 COMMAND / SUPERVISORY OFFICERS' CRIME SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Command Officers
 - 1. While the ranking command officer at the scene of any call is in overall charge, he may delegate supervision to the assigned sergeant and acts as an overseer. He intervenes only when he observes serious breaches of established procedure.
 - 2. Make periodic checks of major crime scenes to ensure proper procedures are being followed.



